

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

(By Senators Plymale, Unger, Browning, Jenkins, Stollings,
Minard, Williams, Kessler (Acting President) and D. Facemire)

Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study
the educational and communication barriers facing children in
West Virginia who are deaf or hard of hearing and their
families, and the adequacy and enforcement of current laws
that address these barriers.

Whereas, Hearing loss impacts the most basic of humans needs,
which is the ability to communicate with other human beings; and

Whereas, Children who are deaf or hard of hearing communicate
using various communication modes including sign language, speech
and other means; and

Whereas, There are currently more than three hundred seventy-
five children who are deaf or hard of hearing in this state between
the ages of birth and twenty-one years; and

Whereas, Young children who are deaf or hard of hearing
typically lack significant English language skills; and

Whereas, Many individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing
require specialized instruction, services, equipment and materials;

and

1 Whereas, Receiving such provisions is critical to the
2 education, development and success of children who are deaf or hard
3 of hearing, yet the provisions may not be administered adequately
4 to sufficiently meet the needs of children in this state who are
5 deaf or hard of hearing; and

6 Whereas, Significant barriers exist for individuals who are
7 deaf or hard of hearing in our current education system and must be
8 addressed; and

9 Whereas, The West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of
10 Hearing aids individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing in their
11 efforts to live independent and productive lives; and

12 Whereas, The West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of
13 Hearing would be a valuable resource in exploring the needs of and
14 obstacles faced by children who are deaf or hard of hearing;
15 therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

17 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby
18 requested to study the educational and communication barriers
19 facing children in West Virginia who are deaf or hard of hearing
20 and their families, and the adequacy and enforcement of current
21 laws that address these barriers; and, be it

22 *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Government and
23 Finance is requested to report to the regular session of the
24 Legislature, 2012, on its findings, conclusions and

1 recommendations, together with drafts of any legislation necessary
2 to effectuate its recommendations; and, be it

3 *Further Resolved*, That the expenses necessary to conduct this
4 study, to prepare a report and draft necessary legislation are
5 requested to be paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint
6 Committee on Government and Finance.